

Please amend the following claims as set forth below.

F 2
H/H 14. (Amended Thrice) A method of treating chronic inflammation in a patient in need of such treatment, comprising administering to the patient a chronic inflammation treating effective amount of erythropoietin, wherein the patient does not have anemia [of chronic disease or rheumatoid arthritis].

Eb G 2
F 3
A 3 18. (Amended Thrice) A method of treating a symptom associated with rheumatoid arthritis in a patient in need of such treatment, comprising administering to the patient a rheumatoid arthritis symptoms treating effective amount of erythropoietin over a treatment period, wherein said treatment period is [at least] 3 or 6 weeks, wherein said symptom is at least one symptom selected from the group consisting of pain, loss of grip strength, painful joints, and swollen joints.

S 63
V 4
H/H 20. (Amended Thrice) A method of ameliorating a disease activity of rheumatoid arthritis in a patient in need of such amelioration, comprising administering to the patient a rheumatoid arthritis disease activity ameliorating effective amount of erythropoietin over a period, wherein said period comprises [is at least] 3 weeks of treatment, wherein said disease activity is an erythrocyte sedimentation rate or C-reactive protein level.